settlement records. It was therefore no wonder that the people were bitterly complaining about the proceedings that were being taken under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

The Member next spoke about the officers authorised to exercise the powers under the Survey and Boundaries Regulation. He said that the majority of officers acting under that Regulation also were either ignorant of the rules or were wilfully perverse or incompetent. The officers were always on the alert to take up *poramboke* cases on some pretext or other and the confusion in the Survey and Settlement records described above afforded the unscrupulous officers ample facilities and latitude for doing so. He requested that the matter might be looked into and necessary remedial measures adopted.

Coming to the Regulation and the rules framed thereunder, the Member said that, if the framers of the rules had been aware of the inaccuracies of the revenue records relating to *poramboke*, they would never have introduced such rigorous provisions in the Regulation. He therefore requested that steps might be taken to amend the Regulation so as to relax the rigour of its penal provisions.

The next point touched upon by the Member was about the agency responsible for the disposal of *poramboke* cases. He observed that at present the officers who detected encroachments were themselves the deciding officers. That being so, it was naturally to be expected that, whatever the evidence adduced might be, the officers would be particular to see that the cases started by themselves ended in conviction. The Member therefore suggested that those officers should be required to complete the enquiries and charge the cases before a Magistrate for disposal, as was being done by the officers of the Excise and Forest Departments in respect of excise and forest cases. If that was done, much of the sufferings of the people would diminish to an appreciable extent.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that steps might be taken at once to remove the material defects and errors in the survey records first and thus relieve the sufferings of the people.

7. Grievances of the public in the operation of the Land Conservancy Regulation.

Mr. N. Pappu Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) observed that the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation was productive of much harm to the inhabitants of Mavelikara. He pointed out that the Settlement and Survey introduced by Dewan Ramiengar were conducted on approved lines only in respect of seven taluks, and that in the remaining taluks, including Mavelikara, they were not only not properly done, but they created considerable confusion, so much so that what was the people's property as per the *pathivu* of 1012 ceased to be theirs subsequently. The Member said that the main reason for that was that the classifiers appointed for the proper subdivision of lands according to ownership and for correctly locating the same were not properly trained in survey and that they never inspected the lands but did their field-work as it suited them from their head-quarters. The changes in areas, boundaries, etc., had to be incorporated then and there in the records, and as a result, great discrepancies came to exist between what was shown in the records and what was seen on the ground. Such being the case, the Land Conservancy Regulation which was intended to conserve the lands at the disposal of the Government, and to evict persons unauthorisedly occupying the same, could not be considered to serve the purpose for which it was intended. For a proper working of the same, a correct resurvey was absolutely necessary, and till that was done, the present hardship would continue. The Member also stated that the necessity for a resurvey was also urged at the last session of the Assembly, but that the reply given was that it was not feasible on financial grounds. The Member urged that a resurvey should be immediately arranged for and that the plea of want of funds could not stand when the interests of the people in general required it.

The Member then spoke about the defects observed in the working of the Land Conservancy Regulation and Rules and the remedies therefor. He said that the special accountants employed for the purpose were both irresponsible and ignorant

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of the work entrusted to them. They were always anxious to detect encroachments, in the belief that they would rise in the favor of their superiors to the extent of the number of cases detected by them. Thus all ideas of a proper conservancy of Government lands were ignored by them. To remedy this defect, the Member urged that permanent Pakuthi Accountants should be appointed for the purpose in lieu of the temporary men and the latter posted for *pakuthi* work. It was also suggested that those permanent accountants should be given an allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem in addition to their pay.

In the matter of planting of demarcation stones, the present rule was that stones should be planted within certain specified dates after the ground was measured. In cases of failure to do so, the procedure now adopted was to realise as much as five times the cost of the stones as penalty. This was also a source of profit to the accountants employed for the purpose. In Mavelikara 9 to 11 chackrams would be the price of a stone, but the L. R. M. staff recovered Rs. $1\frac{3}{4}$ to Rs. $2\frac{3}{4}$ per stone. Similarly, a sum of Re. $\frac{1}{2}$ to Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ per stone was levied as transmission charges, against the normal charges amounting to one fanam per stone. The Member therefore prayed that a ruling might be made that the penalty should, under no circumstances, exceed one-half of the value of the stones.

The Member pointed out that the Proverthicars were equally guilty with the accountants in the matter of detecting encroachment cases. Whenever a Proverthicar was short of money, he had only to initiate a *porambokе* case, and as soon as he was satisfied, the case would cease to be a *porambokе* case. The Proverthicar could not also be blamed for it, because he was the presiding officer in the *pakuthi* and was expected to maintain a certain status. The present pay of the Proverthicar, *viz.*, Rs. 18 and Rs. 24 per month was quite inadequate. The Member suggested that the Proverthicars should be given a scale of pay of Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 and that stringent orders should be issued to them not to resort to such tactics in future.

The next complaint of the Member was the absence of a land complaint register in the taluks. He said that, at present, complaints from persons against the wrong measurements of *porambokes* were never heeded. He therefore suggested that a land complaint register be prescribed for all the taluks and that all such complaints be required to be registered and the action taken in respect of the same duly noted therein. He also prayed that endorsements might be invariably granted to the complainants.

The Member next pointed out that punishments inflicted in *porambokе* cases were not uniform, the same officer awarding different kinds of punishments for the same offence committed by two persons. The Land Records Superintendent with his multifarious work could not be expected to attend to the work of supervision. The Assistant Tahsildars being inexperienced were generally guided by their accountants. Hence an officer thoroughly experienced in survey should be appointed in each Division for supervision work.

The Member also prayed that, for unintentional and *bona fide* encroachments, no conviction or punishment under the Regulation was really necessary. The occupants should be warned not to repeat such encroachments and let off, but they might be punished if the act was repeated. The law should be amended accordingly.

Lastly, the Member stated that *Sarpakkavus* as well as the temples and tanks attached to them were wrongly recorded as *porambokes* in numerous cases at the last settlement. It was not possible for each such case being brought to the notice of the Land Revenue Commissioner, as ordered by him, nor would it be feasible to take registry of such places of worship on payment of *tharavila*, *thadivila*, etc. He represented that the Tahsildars might be authorised to hold the necessary enquiries in those cases and order registry of such *kavus*, temples and tanks in the names of those who were found to be their owners, free of *tharavila* and other dues.

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